

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 42905-36600

Title: 24TH MEU (SOC) OPERATIONS IN AND AROUND KISMAYO, SOMALIA

Operation/Exercise Name: RESTORE HOPE

Observed: 29 Apr 1993

Originator: 24 MEU(SOC) S-2

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5. (U) OBSERVATION:

During sustained operations ashore in the Kismayo HRS, the MEU experienced a number of information gaps which could have been best satisfied by assets either on Continental United States (CONUS) standby or not on the MEU's Table of Organization (T/O).

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

The only asset ashore that could have been considered a real-time target information platform was Radio Battalion. However, had the environment been conducive to SIGINT operations, information collected would still have to be verified by multiple sources. A number of information requirements centered on determining ingress and egress routes used by hostile forces operating in the area. The ability to monitor and rapidly respond to numerous Named Areas of Interest (NAI) could have been best satisfied by using sensors (SCAMP) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). Conditions for employment of both of these assets were ideal in that visibility was unrestricted and line of sight was excellent. Unfortunately, neither of these assets was available and collection efforts were hampered.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

UAV and SCAMP capabilities could have significantly enhanced the collection efforts in Operation Restore Hope.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

a. SCAMP and UAV detachments should be CONUS standby detachments for forward deployed MEU's.

b. In the early planning stages of an operation, identify the CONUS standby detachments that may be required for mission

accomplishment and arrange for their arrival and employment.

9. (U) COMMENTS:

None.

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